

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 04252 241035Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----072906 241040Z /17
O 241015Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1169

S E C R E T BELGRADE 4252

EXDIS

FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS YO ET US
SUBJ: ALLEGED YUGOSLAV TRANSFER OF M-47 TANKS TO ETHIOPIA

REF: (A) STATE 146935, (B) STATE 145552, (C) BELGRADE 4238

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED REFTEL (A) AND, -- BECAUSE
I BELIEVE THIS TO BE SO SERIOUS AN ISSUE THAT IT SHOULD BE RAISED
IN FIRST INSTANCE AT HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL -- HAVE
REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC, OR
IN HIS ABSENCE (MINIC REPORTEDLY IS OUT OF TOWN) DEPUTY
SECRETARY MOJSOV. IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MEET WITH
EITHER BEFORE TOMORROW MORNING.

2. DEPARTMENT SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT I CONSIDER THE
COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED IN REF (C) TO BE A FAR
STRONGER APPROACH, AND THAT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF (A)
ARE PRECISELY NOT REPEAT NOT THE WAY TO PROCEED. AS
I INDICATED IN REF (C) I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT
WHEN I APPROACH THE YUGOSLAVS ON THIS MATTER I BE
IN A POSITION TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT WE KNOW
THAT THE TRANSFER HAS INDEED TAKEN PLACE, AND THAT
THE TANKS CAME FROM YUGOSLAVIA. AS OF THIS MOMENT I AM
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NOT ABLE TO DO THIS, AND IN FACT HAVE ONLY BEEN INSTRUCTED
TO ENQUIRE IF A TRANSFER HAS TAKEN PLACE. IT IS
PROBABLE THAT WHEN THE YUGOSLAVS DO REPLY IT WILL BE
A WEASEL-WORDED DENIAL.

3. DESPITE MY STRONG DOUBTS, HOWEVER, AND IN THE ABSENCE
OF FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, I INTEND TO SAY THE FOLLOWING

TO MINIC OR MOJSOV:

(A) I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH THE GOY
ON A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP. THE USG HAS INFORMATION THAT M-47 TANKS
SUPPLIED BY THE USG TO YUGOSLAVIA UNDER MAP HAVE
APPARENTLY BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA.

(B) IF THIS TRANSFER HAS IN FACT TAKEN PLACE, IT
IS APPARENT THAT IT IS A VIOLATION OF BILATERAL
UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOY WHICH
REQUIRE THAT THE USG AGREE TO SUCH A TRANSFER
BEFORE IT CAN TAKE PLACE.

(C) I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ASK THE GOY IF IT
CAN CONFIRM THAT M-47 TANKS OBTAINED FROM THE USG
HAVE BEEN IN FACT TRANSFERRED TO ETHIOPIA.
EAGLEBURGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT LOANS, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES), MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELGRA04252
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770226-0346
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770620/aaaaarnm.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29664977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 146935, 77 STATE 145552, 77 BELGRADE 4238
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2039761
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED YUGOSLAV TRANSFER OF M-47 TANKS TO ETHIOPIA
TAGS: MASS, YO, ET, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29664977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009